

Remarks

Applicant has read and considered the Office Action dated February 12, 2004 and the references cited therein.

Claims 19-36 were withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 19-36 have now been canceled.

In the Action, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12 and 13 were rejected while claims 4, 7, 11 and 14-18 were objected to. Claims 1, 7, 11, 14 and 16-18 have been amended. Claims 4 and 19-36 have now been cancelled. Claims 1-3 and 5-18 remain pending.

In the Action, claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jerominek et al.* in view of *Goossen et al.*, further in view of *Laub et al.*, further in view of *Tuma et al.*, and further in view of *Dhuler et al.* Claim 1 has now been amended and incorporates subject matter of claim 4 which was indicated as having allowable subject matter. Applicant asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Applicant further asserts that the remaining claims, which all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 7, 11 and 14-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended and recites the subject matter of claim 4. Applicant therefore asserts that claim 1 is allowable and asserts that the remaining claims are also allowable as they have been amended to depend from claim 1.

A speedy and favorable action on the merits is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Dated: _____

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By: _____

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